RULE I: REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

A. Authority to Grant the Degree

Pursuant to authority granted by the State of New Hampshire, UNH Law confers the Juris Doctor degree on candidates recommended by the faculty.

B. Eligibility to Receive the Degree

To be eligible for recommendation for the Juris Doctor degree, a student must:

1. **Undergraduate Degree** - Receive an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university; and

2. **Grade Point Average** - Achieve a grade point average equivalent to a C (2.00) or higher in all enrollment for credit toward the Juris Doctor degree; and

3. **Offset of Credits Below C Minus** - Offset all credits toward the degree in which the grade is below C minus with an equal number of credits in which the grade is B minus or above; and

4. **Minimum Credits** - Earn a minimum of eighty-five (85) credits not more than
   a. Nine (9) of which are earned at grades below C minus,
   b. Eighteen (18) of which are earned in clinical work,
   c. The number of credits for distance learning permitted by the American Bar Association (ABA). Caution: Some states set their own maximum and students should check for states where they are likely to take the bar exam. (Revised by faculty 10/5/2017.)
   d. Eight (8) credits may be earned in Independent Study,
   e. Fifteen (15) credits may be earned from legal residencies,
   f. Eight (8) credits may be earned in non-law, graduate-level work,
   g. Twenty-seven (27) of which are earned in courses that do not qualify as “regularly scheduled class sessions” (as defined in ABA Standard 304(b), and Interpretation 304-3), which consists of the following coursework (or course opportunities) at UNH Law:
      i. Independent study;
      ii. Clinical courses that do not have a mandatory classroom component;
      iii. Legal Residencies;
      iv. Non-law, graduate level work; and
      v. Co-curricular activities such as law review, moot court, and trial competitions.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48-49</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Upper Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements – separate courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Upper Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements – credits</td>
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<td>c.</td>
<td>Upper Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements – timing</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Upper Level Experiential Learning Requirement (6 credits) (required for all students in the classes graduating in 2019 or later as defined by Rule I.C.)</td>
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</table>

**Total Credits**

Advanced standing students (adopted by faculty 10/1/2015)

This section applies only to advanced standing students who are transferring into the JD program from a law school outside of the United States or from UNH Law’s residential LL.M. degree programs.

In addition to the required curriculum set out above, advanced standing students must complete the following courses:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Business Associations I</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Students who transfer into the JD program from UNH Law’s residential LL.M. program will not be required to take LGP 920 Contracts, LSK 919 Legal Analysis and Writing I, LSK 900 Legal Research and Information Literacy if in LIP 894 American Legal Process and Analysis I, LIP 895 American Legal Process and Analysis II, LIP 855 Graduate Programs Contracts if:

a. They have achieved a grade of HH; and
b. The professor of the course recommends that they have achieved competency in the subject matter such that taking the JD courses would be unduly repetitive.

Students must meet the requirements above for each class for which they are seeking a Rule I waiver.

Students admitted under this section may enroll in no more than one 4-credit Legal Residency or one 4-credit clinic.

The provisions of this paragraph may be waived if the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Assistant Dean of Students find that the coursework required by this paragraph has been completed under the terms of Rule X or because meeting the requirements of Rule I would be unduly repetitive.

7. Residency - Complete residency of
   a. Six (6) semesters of full-time enrollment, including a minimum of four (4) semesters at UNH Law, or
   b. The equivalent of (a) to the extent permitted in subdivision D (“Residency”) of this part; and

8. Complete the requirements for obtaining the Juris Doctor Degree no later than 84 months after commencing the Juris Doctor degree program at UNH Law or a law school from which UNH Law has accepted transfer credit, and

9. Academic Probation - Be eligible to continue as a candidate for the Juris Doctor degree under Rule VI.A.(1) taking into account the semester immediately preceding graduation and have satisfied the terms of any applicable probation; and

10. Financial Responsibility - Satisfy outstanding financial obligations to UNH Law; and

11. Conduct Code Violation - Not be subject to a complaint of an alleged violation of the Conduct Code that if determined against the student could result in the suspension or dismissal of the student.

12. Preliminary Bar (adopted by faculty 5/1/2014) (revised by faculty 5/4/2017) - Complete a preliminary bar exam administered by UNH Law. This exam shall not count for course credit, GPA calculation, or class rank calculation. Scores on the preliminary bar exam shall not be recorded on students’ transcripts, although completion of the preliminary bar exam shall be noted on transcripts. All first-year students and transfer students shall take the preliminary bar exam on the date set by UNH Law. Students who are unable to sit on the designated date due to an emergency, religious reason, or other circumstances beyond their control shall contact the Director of Academic Success as soon as possible upon realizing they will not be able to sit and will work with the Director to make arrangements to take the test at an alternate time that is reasonable both for the affected students and UNH Law. Students shall complete the preliminary bar exam in one of the following ways:
   a. receiving a score at or above the level set by the Committee on Academic Standing and Success (CASS) in consultation with the Academic Success Program when they take the preliminary bar in the spring of their 1L year (or, if they are transfer students, the spring of their first year at UNH Law);
   b. coming under “early intervention” jurisdiction of CASS (which is not designated on transcripts), fulfilling reasonable program requirements established by CASS in consultation with the Academic Success Program to address specific weaknesses in substantive knowledge and / or skills, and re-taking the preliminary bar exam in the spring of their 2L year (or, if they are transfer students, the spring of their second year of studies at UNH Law), should they not receive the set score in their 1L year (or, if they are transfer students, the spring of their first year at UNH Law). Students who first took the exam in the spring of their 1L year and do not achieve the set score in the spring of their second year shall have the option of re-taking the preliminary bar exam in the spring of their 3L year but shall not be required to take it.

C. Determination of Class Membership

For purposes of determining eligibility for the Juris Doctor degree under subdivision B of this rule, a student shall be a member of the class with which the student completes the majority of the courses then required in the second semester of the first-year Juris Doctorate curriculum.

D. Residency

1. Definition of A “Full-Time Enrollment.” A “full-time enrollment” in a semester is defined as:
   a. Registration in curricular offerings totaling at least twelve (12) credits; and
   b. Completion of requirements for credit in curricular offerings totaling at least ten (10) credits.

2. Definition of “Semester.” A “semester” is one of two terms in an academic year.

Each semester contains at least fourteen (14) continuous weeks of classes, subject to holidays and vacations, followed by reading and examination periods. Enrollment in credit offerings in a summer term or another term outside the academic year is not enrollment in a semester and thus does not constitute residency credit. Summer and other term courses do count however towards total credits earned and towards a student’s GPA.

3. Continuous Full-Time Enrollment for Six Semesters. A student must complete within a three-year period the six (6) semesters of full-time enrollment required for the Juris Doctor degree. The only exceptions to this requirement are:
   a. A leave of absence as provided in Rule XI;
   b. Admission of a student with advanced residency standing under Rule X;
   c. The suspension of a student as a probationary term prescribed by the Academic Standing Committee under subdivision A(3) of Rule VII;
   d. The permission granted by the Assistant Dean of Students to enroll in fewer credits than qualify as full-time enrollment in a semester as
      i. a short-term accommodation in an extraordinary situation beyond the control or responsibility of the student or
      ii. a short- or long-term accommodation based on disability;
   iii. or the experiment in part-time enrollment where full-time enrollment is not economically feasible; and
e. The failure of a student who has registered for full-time enrollment to complete full-time enrollment because of receiving an F or U grade in one or more offerings.

4. **Curing a Deficiency in Full-Time Enrollment.** A student permitted to enroll under subdivision (d)(i) immediately above, for less than full-time residency or a student who fails to complete full-time enrollment in a semester as provided in subdivision (e) immediately above, should cure the deficiency by enrolling in courses in the summer or otherwise outside the academic year. If such enrollment is not practicable, a student may cure the deficiency by enrollment, which may be less than full-time, in a seventh semester. Residency credit may be earned under this subdivision in the ratio that the credits enrolled in or earned, whichever is appropriate, bear to the minimums specified in subdivision (1) above.